

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-16 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 was amended by essentially incorporating the subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 was accordingly cancelled. No new matter has been added.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) in view of Ohwa et al. This reference does not anticipate the presently claimed invention or make it obvious.

However, please note that claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2. As stated in the Office Action at page 2, section 3, claim 2 is allowable. Thus, with the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1 (and cancellation of claim 2), claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-16 directly or indirectly depend upon allowable claim 1 and thus claims 3-16 are allowable. All remaining claims 1 and 3-16, pending in this application, are allowable.

The applicants submit that all presently pending claims are fully allowable in view of the cited art.

FURUKAWA, A. – Appln. No. 109/073,187
Amendment dated October 23, 2003

In view of the above and there being no further rejections or objections, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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